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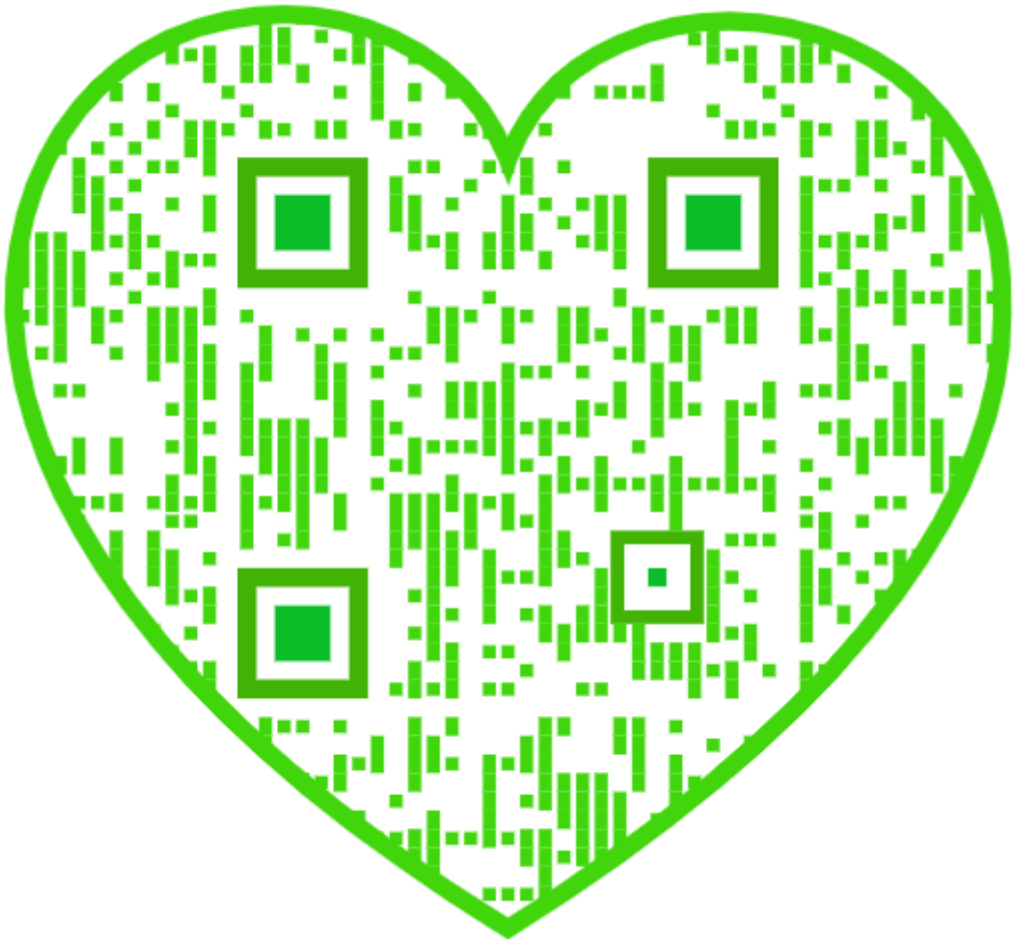

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JOHN A. SEAVERNS

A

PRACTICAL GUIDE

TO THE

BREAKING AND TRAINING

OF THE

YOUNG HORSE.

BY

CORPORAL MAJOR ROBERT TURNER,

ASSISTANT RIDING MASTER, ROYAL HORSE GUARDS.

Dedicated, by express permission, to

FIELD MARSHAL

THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY,

K.G., G.C.B., G.C.H., &c., &c.

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DEDICATION

TO

FIELD MARSHAL THE MOST NOBLE

THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY,

K.G., G.C.B., G.C.H. &c., &c.

My Lord,

Besides returning your Lordship my most grateful thanks for the high honor you have conferred upon me in permitting this work to be published under your sanction and patronage, I have only to add, that whatever shall be found set down therein, is the result of more than twenty-two years' experience and practice in the Riding School, aided by a strong partiality for that department of Regimental duty, to which my time and attention have been most especially devoted.

Again thanking your Lordship for the encouragement you have bestowed on my humble efforts for the advancement of a noble and useful science, and the proper training and considerate treatment of a no less noble and useful animal, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your Lordship's

Most humble and obedient Servant,

ROBERT TURNER.

1*st July*, 1851.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The Horse's Appointments.

PAGE

The Snaffle 9
The Bit or Curb Bridle 10
The Martingal 11
The Saddle 13
The Breast Plate . . . . . *ib*
The Crupper . . . . . *ib.*

Principles of Training.

Saddling 17
Management of the Crupper 18
The Cross 19
Mounting 20
The Seat 22
Dismounting 24

LESSONS.

First Lesson 26
Second Lesson 27
Third Lesson 30
Fourth Lesson 32
Fifth Lesson 34

PAGE
Sixth Lesson 35
Right Shoulder-in 37
To Turn when working Shoulder-in . . 38
To Halt . . . . . *ib.*
The Half Passage . . . . . *ib.*
The Passage 39
To Turn in the Passage 40
To Halt in the Passage . . . *ib.*
To Turn from Right Pass to Right Shoulder-in . *ib.*
Seventh Lesson 41
Eighth Lesson 42
Ninth Lesson 44
Tenth Lesson 45
Bending with the Bit 48
Eleventh Lesson 49
Twelfth Lesson 51
Rearing 55
Stumbling 56
Over-reach . . . . . *ib.*
Shying 57

DEFECTS AND INFIRMITIES.

Malformations of the Head 60
A Low Shoulder . . . . . *ib.*
The Narrow Chest 61
Weakness in the Back and Loins . . . *ib.*
Deformities of the Quarters, Hocks, and Pastern . 62
Defects of the Foot and Shoeing 63

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE author of this little work is fully aware that he can claim but little merit on the score of originality, as many clever writers on this subject have preceded him; but their precepts are for the most part of so elaborate and technical a nature, as to render them comparatively useless, if not unintelligible, to the majority of readers. The object of this short treatise is, to place within the reach of every one, a few plain practical instructions, by which the horse may be trained to work with comfort to himself, and safety to his rider, thereby preventing numerous accidents to both. The horse is beyond all contradiction, one of the most beautiful, as well as valuable animals man has subjugated to his will, whether we view him in point of utility, or as contributing to our pleasure; and this perhaps may in some degree, account for the ambition that seems natural to most men, to be thought judges of this animal. Among Englishmen in particular, this feeling seems to pervade every rank, from the nobleman with his numerous stud to the meanest helper in his stable. Even the mechanic, who is rarely loosed from his toil, when he does take a holiday, usually selects the race time for the occasion; and although he may never have crossed a horse, still takes an interest in his performance, and delivers his opinion as to the quality of the different animals, as boldly as if he were a profound judge.

Now as so many believe themselves qualified to give an opinion on this subject, and as there are but few who are really competent to do so, it is by no means surprising that many conflicting instructions, have, from time to time, been

published on horses, and on the best means of riding and training them. And some reason may exist for this, when we consider that horses vary so much in form and constitution, that even good judges very often differ, and not unfrequently, may be more or less in error.

My object is to instruct my readers as briefly, and as plainly as the subject will admit of, in the best method of training and riding young horses.

The horse, by nature, is a gentle and complying creature, and resists rather from fear than obstinacy: bearing this in mind, we must always endeavour to assure him, and give him confidence; and therefore, the colt cannot be treated with too much kindness, accompanied by caution and firmness. The groom can do something to assist the rider in this respect, for much of the horse's training depends upon his treatment in the stable; the person also to whom his training is entrusted, should be accustomed to horses, and not one that would be frightened at every start they may make, for many who are not aware of the natural timidity of colts, alarm them by their own fears, in the way they approach them; and as they soon perceive these fears, they will take the earliest advantage of them, by endeavouring to prevent any one from coming near them: for, the horse is very sagacious, even when young, and watches every movement about him, and will soon distinguish fear from firmness in his attendant, or rider; therefore he cannot be deceived by assumed boldness, or by angry words; but, on the contrary, if you treat him with kindness, and when you touch him, lay the hand on him with firmness, and speak gently to him, he will soon become attached and friendly, which is the first thing you should attempt to secure, since those he is most familiar with and accustomed to, he will be the least alarmed at, and will have the most confidence in. The fewer persons about him the better.

The experience of many years * in forming and training

* Twenty-two years.

horses of every variety of temper and capability, for military purposes, (for which docility and obedience are especially requisite,) has convinced me, that with kind and judicious management, the horse becomes one of man's best friends, as well as one of his most docile and willing servants; whilst, on the contrary, by ignorance and cruel treatment, he is driven into vice and habits quite foreign to his nature.

Some excellent writers have disavowed their belief in such a thing as a naturally vicious horse, and I am inclined very much to the same opinion; for, vice in horses is generally to be traced to the ignorance or cruelty, or both combined, of those who have had the management of them; and if not confirmed by long habit, will disappear under a kinder and better master.

While instructing the reader how to train and manage a young horse, it is the author's design to teach him at the same time how to make a horseman of himself, if he will attend to and practise the rules laid down for his guidance.

As the horse's appointments, if ill-fitted, tend to make him restless and uneasy, I will proceed to explain how they ought to be adjusted, begging the reader, when going through the training lessons, to refer to these instructions, as often as he may find the articles here specified adverted to.

The Snaffle,

Being the first thing used in training a young horse, great care must be taken to adjust it properly, as the effect of this and every other bit, depends upon its being correctly placed in the horse's mouth. The space between the fore or nipping teeth and the jaw teeth or grinders, called the bars, is the sensitive part of the horse's mouth, and where the bit is most effective; but, between the fore teeth and

grinders, horses have a canine tooth, called the tusk, which is rarely found in mares. In the horse's mouth then, the mouth-piece should be placed so as to hang easy and loose, that is, not so high as to wrinkle his lips—nor so low as to make him fretful, but fitted in such a way that, although loose and easy, the horse cannot get it below the tusk. It should be placed one inch above the tusk, and though, as I have said before, mares rarely have tusks, the same attention must be paid to adjust it properly; for, if the snaffle is too low, you will never get a good, or steady carriage of the head.

The throat-band must be buckled so as to admit three fingers between it and the horse's jaw-bone.

The snaffle should be continued until the horse's mouth is made, and we do not consider the mouth to be made, until the horse will answer the slightest indication of the rider's hand.

The Bit or Curb Bridle,

To be effective, should be placed in the horse's mouth, so that the mouth-piece may rest on the bars or gums one inch above the lower tusk, for mares, it should be placed two inches above the corner tooth. The bridoon or snaffle, must fit easy above the bit, so as not to wrinkle the lips; the chain must lie smooth and flat under the chin, and should, when properly adjusted, admit one finger to play easily between it and the jaw-bone; but never tighter, with a view of punishing the horse's mouth.

Some bridles have also a nose-band; and this is not as some seem to think, for ornament only, as it is intended to prevent the horse from opening his mouth so as to defend himself against the bit. It should be buckled beneath the bridoon head-stall, and admit one finger between it and the

horse's nose; if looser, it gives him every facility for doing the very thing it is intended to prevent.

The nose-band also answers another purpose, for when it is necessary to use a martingal, it is fastened to the nose-band.

The Martingal.

The martingal is intended to control a horse that has the habit of tossing up his head, which renders him not only unpleasant, but unsafe to ride. The way in which it should be fitted is, first to bring the horse's head to the position in which you wish him to carry it, and there to secure the martingal, taking care not to confine him too much, but just sufficiently to prevent him being mischievous.

I must here remark, that the martingal is an unnecessary appendage to one who is really a horseman; but there are many who call themselves so, who have little claim to the title, I mean such as fancy the horse is to carry them, and also keep them on his back; who hold themselves on as much by their hands as by their legs; and seem to imagine that a horse's mouth has no feeling. Such persons, however, should understand, that it is as sensitive and delicate as their own, and ought to be handled as lightly as possible. With proper treatment, the horse will carry his head as nature intended; but if he has a good and light mouth, and will not allow them the privilege of holding themselves on by the bridle, they lay the blame upon the horse, little thinking that he is all the time rebuking them for their awkwardness. Only let the rider's hand be light and kind, and the horse will carry his head as he ought, without the use of such restraints.

In many cases the martingal is unsafe, particularly if badly fitted, as I have seen some, at least a foot too long,

which might as well have been hanging on the pegs in the saddle room, for all the assistance it could afford the rider. Others I have seen so short, that the horse's head has been fastened to his chest, so that if he goes close to the ground, and is apt to stumble, the rider must pull his head down, and by these means, force him to fall, instead of assisting him to recover.

If the horse is inclined to poke his nose out, as most horses will, if they have a thick and narrow jole, and the head badly put on, the rider should carry his inward hand a little lower than the usual position, keeping the outward hand in its proper position, for while the outward hand raises the horse's head, the inward hand will cause him to yield and bring his nose in. By paying daily attention to this rule, the horse will soon be brought to carry his head in the required position, at least, as far as the imperfection of his form will allow him; for we cannot undo what nature has done, though we may remedy it to some extent, without tying his head down with the martingal.

Again, for a kicking horse, the martingal is very improper, as it will prevent the rider from keeping his horse's head up: and if his head is held down by the martingal, he has every chance to kick, in spite of his rider. I have known horses kick till they have thrown themselves off their legs; but since they cannot get both ends up at one time, if the rider can keep his horse's head up, he can never kick so as to be dangerous. For these reasons, I affirm, that the martingal is useless to a good rider, and dangerous to a bad one.

I will here make bold to remark, that were the few rules which will be found in these pages carefully observed and practised in the training of horses, such articles as nose-bands, martingals, and all restraints independent of the hand, would be almost unknown. However, should my reader be unfortunate enough to be obliged to have recourse to them, I have explained how they ought to be applied.

The Saddle.

Care must be taken that the saddle fits the horse, and does not in any way pinch or hurt his back. In putting it on, it must be placed rather too forward, drawing it gently back until it is in its proper position, which will be when the front of it is four inches, or the breadth of the hand, behind the play of the horse's shoulder. The object of placing it too forward and drawing it back, is, that it may smooth the horse's coat, and make it lie the proper way, otherwise he might be rendered irritable and fretful. The girths (more particularly with young horses) must be drawn up gently, hole by hole, and not tighter than to admit a finger easily between them and the horse's belly. Should they be drawn up suddenly, or too tightly, it will cause the horse to swell himself and plunge, which might, in some instances, burst the girths, and the saddle, by falling, would greatly alarm a young horse.

The Breast Plate

Is only used for military purposes; and should be fitted in such a manner that when the horse is standing well up in front, the upper edge of the rosette or boss, should be three inches above the sharp breast-bone of his chest, and admit the breadth of the hand vertically, on the flat of his shoulder bone, and also between the martingal and his chest.

The Crupper

Is seldom used but with military saddles. When it is necessary, it must be so adjusted as to admit the breadth of the hand between it and the horse's croup; I mean, that a man

ought to be able to place his hand upon the horse's back, and turn it up vertically, his little finger resting on the horse's back, and the crupper resting on his forefinger, without pressing hard upon it.

Having instructed the reader as to the manner in which the horse's appointments ought to be fitted, I will now as briefly as possible, endeavour to teach him the best and most expeditious mode of training the horse. To render this simple, I will imagine that a young horse is sent me to train, and will explain the successive lessons necessary to render him not only perfectly safe, but pleasant to his rider.

The horse being brought to the riding school, I commence by putting a plain snaffle into his mouth, fitting it according to my former instructions, with the reins so secured that they cannot fall over his head, which may be prevented by crossing or knotting them; I then take the guide rein (which is usually attached to a cavesson,) and buckle it to the ring of the snaffle, and begin by longeing him in a circle from fifteen to twenty yards in diameter: it is of very little importance to which hand the longeing is begun, provided the horse is rendered equally familiar with the practice on both hands; but as horses are usually fed, watered, and led, on the near side, they are generally inclined to follow and lead better by the left rein than the right; but if it should be found that a horse is less tractable on the off than on the near side, two lessons may be given on the right, to one on the left rein, proportioning the lesson to the horse's strength and capability, frequently encouraging and confirming him by patting and caressing him. A young horse must not be deemed obstinate or restive, if he should hesitate or stand still, when it is intended that he should move forward; such hesitation often proceeds from alarm, which may be removed by encourage-

ment; the man with the longeing rein walking round the circle a few times with him, and by degrees, getting away from him, while another follows with a whip, showing it to him, but not striking him with it, will be sufficient to urge him on, and in about two or three lessons he will learn what is required from him. If he should attempt to hang back, the man following with the whip may strike the ground with it, which will generally have the desired effect. After he has gone a few times round at a walk, and seems to lead pretty well, he may be urged to trot; should he go quietly, allow the rein to slip till he forms a large circle, and let him go very steadily a few times round, then call him up and encourage him, and try the same to the reverse hand; if he takes kindly to this lesson, the man with the whip will be sufficient to keep him to the outside of the circle, and up to his pace; should he fly or plunge, the longeing rein should be shaken very gently, without jerking it, which will most probably bring him to trot or walk again.

The man holding the rein ought to have a very light and even hand on the horse's mouth, otherwise he cannot form a true circle, which the instructor ought to be very particular in observing; for if the circle be not true, the horse will not have a true and even action.

For the first two or three days, the horse should not be urged too much; if he goes quietly, without jumping or any sign of disobedience, it is enough. In this manner, he may be longed to the right, left, and right again, changing often from the walk to the trot. This and every other lesson, must be repeated till he performs correctly, urging him to increase his pace every lesson, but a lesson should never be continued so long as to tire or discourage him. The reason why I use the snaffle in preference to the cavesson is, because I am persuaded it is the more expeditious way; for we are securing two objects at once, first, the earliest act of obedience we demand from the horse, (viz.) to go forward, and, at the same time, accustoming his mouth to acknowledge the indication of the bit.

In this and every other lesson, the greatest kindness and gentleness must be used, and having practised them for a few days, and the horse beginning to understand what is wanted of him, he may be urged a little more in the trot, taking care not to overdo it, for if you should, he will gallop; but a little more is to be demanded from him as he improves. You may easily tell when he is doing his best by the evenness of his step, but if forced too much, it will be unequal, and an even length of step is the object that you are trying to obtain. It cannot be too often repeated, that in all lessons and instructions to young horses, the greatest care must be taken to guard against rough and violent handling, for, by a sudden jerk of the longeing rein, a young horse may be thrown off his feet, and thereby not only intimidated, but seriously strained in parts the violent and inexperienced trainer little suspects, as in the hocks, loins, or shoulders: the mere weight of the rein from the hand to the snaffle will have sufficient pressure on the colt's bars to lead him round the circle. The longeing lessons must be continued until the horse can use his limbs with a true length of pace and free action. After each lesson he should be brought up to the centre of the circle, and placed straight upon all four legs, and rewarded with a few oats, or a piece of carrot or apple.

The man who holds the cavesson rein should take it short by folding the spare end of it up in one hand, at the same time patting and rubbing the horse about the neck and head with the other; he should then try with the right hand to bend him a little to both sides by a playful action of the snaffle rein; the bend should be in the very poll of the neck. This must be done very carefully and by degrees, and by being repeated after each lesson to the left, as well as to the right, will greatly facilitate the future progress of the horse.

And here I may mention, that the instructor should try to rein the horse back a step or two, and make a practice of doing it after every lesson: to effect this, the man that

holds the rein should place himself in front of, and facing the horse, and taking the snaffle reins near the ring of the bit, one in each hand, endeavour, by a gentle and alternate pressure of the bit, upon the bars of the horse's mouth, to make him step back a few paces, being particular to move him forward after reining back: if at first he only yields to the pressure of the bit, it should be deemed sufficient. Never, if he deserves it, omit to encourage him before dismissing him.

Saddling.

So far the colt has been free from encumbrance that he might have the free play and full use of his limbs; but when he has arrived at the point that he longes freely, and steps well out with an even length of pace, the next thing is to put a saddle on his back; here also the greatest care is requisite. Saddling should take place in the first instance, in an open space or longeing ground, so that if the horse should jump or plunge, he may not hurt himself. Two men are quite sufficient for this duty, as more about him will only cause needless alarm. The man with the longeing rein, buckled on to the snaffle, and holding the spare end of it folded up in his left hand, should face the horse, and hold him by taking the snaffle reins one in each hand close to the bit, speaking to him and taking off his attention by gently moving the bit in his mouth; in the mean time, the other man places the saddle upon his back, having the girths laid upon it, buckled to the off side, the girths may then be carefully let down, all which should be done without hurry, and as quietly as possible. The man may then take the girths, one at a time, very gently, and draw them on to the straps, merely to prevent the saddle slipping off. Having been successful so far, pat him and rub him about the neck and ribs, and if he shows no

symptoms of resistance, the girths may be tightened by degrees, but bear in mind, they are never to be so tight as not to admit the fingers easily between them and the horse's belly.

The horse being carefully saddled, should then be moved onward by leading him for a few minutes round the circle; and if he takes this quietly, longe him a little to both hands: when he feels the saddle, which he will do at the trot, he perhaps may jump and plunge a little, but take no more notice of this than by merely shaking the longeing rein; do not jerk it, or punish him, for as he has plenty of room he will not hurt himself, and when he finds that he cannot kick it off, he will soon settle down.

The horse being thus kindly and carefully treated, will soon bear to be saddled with less precaution, yet it is always well to be careful with a young horse. If he is unsteady, he should be allowed to stand saddled an hour or more each day; and no attempt to mount him should be thought of until he is well reconciled to the saddle.

The Crupper.

Great care must also be taken in putting on the crupper, for any bad management in the early attempt of this is very likely to be attended with both difficulty and danger, which will not be readily overcome afterwards. As I mentioned before, when doing anything with a young horse, it is always necessary to be firm, and not to touch him as though you were afraid of him. The crupper should be rather too long the first time of putting it on, taking care that none of the long hair of the tail is left between it and the crupper: having so far succeeded, let the tail gently down, and then fit the crupper, taking care not to have it too short, otherwise it will nip his tail, and make it sore, which might cause him to kick with the crupper ever afterwards.

While these operations are going on, the horse's attention is to be taken off by the man at his head, caressing, patting, and speaking kindly to him. Here again, when he is moved in the longe, and feels the crupper, he may jump, and plunge, but take as little notice of it as possible, and by these means, he will become familiar with, and obedient to, the instructor.

The Cross.

If he is quiet in taking the crupper, for he must be familiar with one thing before you try him with another he may next have the cross put upon him, and as young horses are very inquisitive, as well as suspicious, let him satisfy his curiosity by looking at it, and he will most likely, if you hold it still, put his nose to it and smell it, if so, pat him and encourage him, then place it on his back quietly, and let the girth be no tighter than that of the saddle. The snaffle rein must now be attached to the cross, and the reins belonging to the cross put through the ring of the snaffle, and buckled rather loose, shortening them day by day, as the horse improves in his training, taking care to have him bent inwards, that is, to shorten that rein most to the hand he is working on, being particular at the same time that both reins are to have a light pressure on the bars of his mouth; this is intended to raise him in front, and lighten his forehand, and prepare him to go well up to the rider's hand when he is mounted. The practice of some who call themselves colt-breakers, cannot be too strongly condemned, who buckle the poor horse's head so tight to the cross, as to cause the sweat to run off him through pain, when to ease himself, he will rest all the weight of his head on the snaffle; and in this painful position they will keep him for an hour or more at a time; thus, instead of advancing his instruction, they are retarding

it, for they do not seem to understand, that this lesson is intended to supple the horse, and not to cripple him.

The lesson with the cross should be repeated until the horse lifts himself freely in front, and steps well up to the bit, the reins, as I have said, having a light feeling on his mouth, the horse bent to the hand on which he is going; and to obtain this, it will be quite sufficient to shorten the inward rein from two to about three inches, being particular to keep him up to that free action which I mentioned before.

Mounting.

When the horse has been sufficiently prepared by the foregoing lessons, the next attempt must be to mount him. I would recommend, when circumstances will permit, to saddle him an hour or more before he is to be mounted, that he may feel the saddle on his back, and be the more reconciled to it. Two men will be required to assist him who has to mount, one to hold the longeing rein, (the spare end being folded up in his left hand,) and the cheek-piece of the snaffle firmly held with the right, facing the horse, and keeping his head up. The other on the off side must with the right hand firmly hold the cheek-piece of the snaffle, and at the same time the stirrup leather with the left near the saddle tree, pressing his arm well down upon the saddle, in order that when the man raises himself in the stirrup, he may keep the saddle with an equal pressure on the colt's back, to prevent him from being disturbed while the man is mounting; and on his being quietly seated in the saddle, he must let his hand slide down to the stirrup, for the mounted man to place his foot in it.

The earliest thing to teach the young horse in mounting is, to stand still, which at first he will be very unlikely to

do, as the moment the rider raises himself in the stirrup he brings the saddle down with considerable pressure upon the colt's back, which is nearly certain to make him shift about, and should this opposition be determined, it will be necessary to withdraw the foot, as the longer it remains in the stirrup, the more uneasy he will become. The rider cannot be too careful nor too patient in mounting the young horse.

Before attempting to mount completely, he will do well to place his left foot in the stirrup and raise himself a little, by springing from the right foot, which will accustom the colt to bear the additional pressure of the saddle; and by encouragement and kindness, he will soon allow himself to be mounted quietly.

The reason so much precaution is necessary in mounting is, that if the rider should be thrown in his attempt, it not only frightens the horse, but may induce him to resort to the same opposition again. To stand still until he is mounted, is one of the most useful lessons that he can receive, and must therefore be thoroughly taught him.

The man that is to mount should place himself opposite the horse's shoulder with his face towards it, taking up the reins with the right hand and placing the left hand below it, with the little finger of the left hand between the reins, drawing them through the left with the right hand, till he feels the horse's mouth very lightly, when the right hand should drop the spare end of the reins: he is next to take a lock of the horse's mane with the right hand, and twist it round the thumb of the left, the hand being closed firmly on the mane and reins, he then takes the top of the stirrup between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, and places his left foot in it, then the right hand quits the stirrup and is removed to the cantle or hind part of the saddle; with a spring from the right foot, the rider raises himself in the stirrup, until he is upright, when a pause of a second should be made, taking care not to touch the side of the horse with his toe, which will be prevented by placing

his left knee against the saddle-flap. If the horse should be alarmed or unsteady, he must immediately come to the ground with the right foot, and endeavour to appease him by patting him on the ribs and quarters, and then try him again. If he is now steady, the right hand is to be shifted from the cantle to the pommel, or forepart of the saddle, the right leg passed clear over the horse's quarters, and the right knee closed on the saddle, the body lowered gently into the seat, and the stirrup taken with the right foot, and a snaffle rein between the third and little fingers of each hand, the spare end of the reins lying upon the second joint of the forefingers, with the thumbs firmly on them, and the hand closed.

The soldier mounts in seven motions, four in preparing to mount, and three in mounting; but these instructions being intended for general use, I do not mention them more particularly.

The Seat.

To be properly seated, the rider should feel himself well down, properly balanced, and perfectly upright in the middle of his saddle, but without stiffness; his body and head easy and square to the front, neither leaning forward nor backward, the shoulders well thrown back, the chest raised, and the small part of the back bent in; by these means, he will force himself well down into the middle of his saddle, and as it were, ride entirely by equilibrium. The arm from the shoulder to the elbow must hang easy, with the thick part of it just below the elbow, lightly touching the hip bone; the lower part of the arm should then be raised until the little finger of each hand is as high and in a line with the elbow joint, the wrist slightly curved with the knuckles to the front, the thumbs pointing directly

towards each other, the little fingers exactly under the thumbs, with a rein in each hand, as I have before mentioned in the previous lesson. The inside of the thighs from the knee upwards, well turned round and close to the saddle, the knee in the centre of the flap and bent, the legs must hang easy by the horse's sides, without constraint, with the foot exactly under the knee, and the stirrup of such a length that the bar which supports the foot should touch the rider's ankle when he is seated, with his legs properly placed; thus the calves of his legs are to act with, and aid the hands; they are also ready to assist and strengthen the seat, if necessary. The ball of the foot should be placed on the stirrup with just sufficient pressure to retain it under the foot, for he is a bad rider who depends on the stirrup, the heels well pressed down, which to be in the correct position, should be two inches lower than the toes; and the toes turned to the front.

The rider being mounted and properly seated, I must caution him that he is to sit steadily, with his reins divided ready to move on, and prepared to keep his seat if the horse should plunge; but should he show any reluctance to move, the rider is not to resort to harsh treatment, by using the whip or spur, but sit quietly on his back, and let the men that have been assisting him to mount, lead him forward, patting him for every act of obedience. If he shows any temper which he is very unlikely to do, if he has been kindly and properly treated in his former lessons, the two men will be sufficient to hold him by keeping up his head, or halting him, and letting him stand still a few minutes, that he may feel what he has on his back, then moving him on a few steps more, patting him frequently: with this treatment, he will soon settle to his work; but on no account whip or spur him, for more horses are rendered restive by the violence and impatience of their instructors, than by any other cause. They seem not to reflect, that they ought not to punish the horse for not doing what he has not been taught to do.

If he is found to go quietly, after the men have led him a few times round the circle, let the man on the off side go gently away, and follow him at a little distance with a whip, merely showing it to him, thus leaving him to the man with the longeing rein and his rider; after he has led him round the circle a few times, let him also steal away from him by lengthening the rein a yard or more, as he may think prudent, keeping his eye upon him, for fear he should plunge, yet leaving him as much as possible to his rider's own management, who should encourage him to walk well out, by pressing him with the calves of his legs, at the same time engaging his attention by moving the bit lightly in his mouth, and giving him all the encouragement in his power. Should he jump, or plunge, the man with the longeing rein must remain close to him, to keep his head up. If he goes quietly for half an hour or so, he should be led into the centre of the circle, caressed, and dismissed. Half an hour will be quite sufficient for the first lesson, which may be increased daily, as his strength increases, and thus he will be prepared for his future lessons.

Dismounting.

To dismount, the rider is to place both snaffle reins in his left hand, with the little finger between them, (as in the instruction for mounting) the right hand taking hold of the reins above the left hand, secures them between the forefinger and thumb of the right hand: the left hand slides down the reins about a foot in front of the saddle, the right hand drops the spare end of them, the left hand having a light feeling on the horse's mouth; the right hand then takes a lock of the mane and twists it round the thumb of the left hand, which is to be closed firmly on the mane and reins; the right hand is next to be placed on the pommel of the saddle, and the right foot withdrawn from the stirrup. The rider

is then to support his body on his right hand and left foot, bending the right knee and carrying the leg clear over the horse's quarters to the near side; the right hand is removed from the pommel to the cantle of the saddle (when a momentary pause should be made); the body is then lowered till the right foot comes to the ground, when the left foot quits the stirrup, and the man faces to his left, taking the snaffle rein with the right hand; the man who has been leading the horse stands on the off side having the longeing rein folded up in his right hand, with which he also takes firmly hold of the snaffle cheek-piece, and with the left hand holds the stirrup leather.

The soldier dismounts in seven motions, three in preparing to dismount and four in dismounting.

There is another, and in my opinion, a safer way to mount and dismount, in backing young horses, and it is the one I always adopt with the snaffle.

In preparing to mount, I place the near side, that is, the left rein, below the little finger of the left hand, and bring it through the hand, passing it between the forefinger and the thumb: I then place the right rein also between the forefinger and the thumb, letting it pass through the hand and below the little finger, and then securely close my hand upon them, when I find I have the reins firm in my grasp, and retained by the pressure of the thumb upon the forefinger. Thus prepared, I mount according to the before-mentioned rules. I am thus ready at a moment's notice to divide the reins, and take one in the right hand. In dismounting, the right rein is returned to the left hand; and the other movements made as before laid down. The advantage of this method is, that in case the horse plunges while being mounted, I have him securely in one hand, and having the breadth of it between the reins, am able to divide them without confusion, and by turning the forefinger upwards to the right to guide him in that direction, and by depressing the little finger and turning it outwards to the left, to keep him to that hand.

Lesson I.

We will now suppose that the colt begins to understand, from his previous lessons, what is wanted from him, in regard to being mounted and dismounted; that he leads pretty well round the circle; that the rider can manage him without much assistance from the longeing rein; and that the man holding it, can trust him with sufficient length of rein to form a large circle, the one with the whip still following him round, but leaving him as much as possible to the rider, who should be very attentive in the application of his hands and legs. If the colt is strong, he should urge him to trot a few times round the circle, to the hand the man with the rein is leading him, then pull him up quietly to the walk; and after he has walked for a short time, halt him and change the rein, and work him in like manner to the other hand; day by day increasing his lesson, according to his strength and capability, encouraging him for every act of compliance. Thus, in a short time, he will allow his rider to mount, and move him on without assistance. All that must be expected from him at first is, that he should walk well, and that to his front, to which the rider must pay great attention, by an equal feeling of the reins, and the pressure of his legs.

Having gone through his lesson quietly, he should be halted square to the front. The rider should then dismount, rein him back a few steps, and dismiss him.

Should the instructor at any time feel annoyed and irritated at the little progress his pupil makes, let him reflect that he has a young and irrational animal to deal with, and remember how much patience he himself required, and how many blunders he made, in acquiring the simplest rudiments of learning. If he applies this reflection, as a man of good feeling ought, he will make allowances for the colt's dullness, and the trouble he gives him, and will endeavour to gain

his end by kindness and perseverance, rather than by violence and cruelty.

The colt has hitherto been ridden with the assistance of a man leading him by the longeing rein: we will presume that he now goes quietly; that his rider has for sometime had him for the most part, under his sole management, and that he begins to walk pretty well; therefore, in his future lessons, the longeing rein may be dispensed with.

Lesson II.

It may be expected that the colt will now know something of what is demanded of him; that he will walk to his front when required; that he will stand still to be mounted, in which the rider should be very particular, never attempting to do so till he is perfectly steady.

Being mounted, the rider must not be rough or impatient; rough treatment will only make him timid, and cause him to resist for his own preservation; while, on the contrary, quietness, accompanied by firmness, will convince him that he has nothing to fear, and he will soon come to terms, and answer every reasonable demand. If the colt should show signs of uneasiness, the rider should dismount quietly, carefully examine the saddle to see that it does not hurt him, that the snaffle is properly fitted, and to discover whether his awkwardness is natural, or proceeds from some other cause; this done, let him mount again, and having seated himself, take a rein in each hand, press the calves of both legs to him, and move him forward. His pace at first will be more of a roll than a walk; but patience and perseverance, will soon improve this. The rider's hands must be light and playful, moving the bit very lightly in the colt's mouth, between which and the rider's hand there must be a constant communication, which he will obtain, by feeling each rein alternately, and then an equal feeling of both, which will

cause him to play with and champ the bit, and encourage him to raise his head, and by degrees, lighten himself in front. The colt must be kept attentive, and up to the bridle, by a gentle pressure of the calves of both legs, so as to teach him to lift his foot up, and place it to his front, but no rough aids are to be applied, such as the whip or spur: for the rider must still bear in mind, that he has a young and untutored thing to instruct, and consequently, he ought to be very cautious and kind in his treatment; for it is as absurd to expect that the young horse can understand or answer the indication of the hand or leg, before he has been taught to do so, as it would be for a schoolmaster to expect a child to read and spell, before he had learned his alphabet; and it is no less barbarous, to punish the former for his ignorance, than the latter. Therefore, as the child's first lessons ought to be simple and easy, so ought the colt's, who is but a child of another species; and all that ought to be demanded from him at first is, to walk straight to his front, and not place one foot to the right, and the other to the left, which he is sure to do, if not restrained by the rider's hand, and at the same time, urged on by the pressure of his legs. I consider the walk of great importance, as it is the foundation of all the other paces; for if a horse does not walk well, he will very rarely be perfect in any pace.

The rider must take care that the colt is not kept at work so long at any one time as to tire him. He must also pay great attention to his hand, for much of the success in training depends on this; the reins must never hang loose; neither must they be pulled, as if the rider had some great weight to sustain; but let him imagine that he has a piece of thread in his hand, or a hair of the horse's mane, and that he does not wish to break the one, nor pull out the other. To enable the reader to understand, the sort of feeling he ought to have on the horse's mouth, let him fasten a piece of thread to something, that will yield to the hand, for instance, the top rail of a light chair; and if by an even and steady feeling of the thread, he can raise the

front legs of the chair from the floor, by closing and relaxing the fingers, he will keep the chair in motion and support in that position, and it will give him some idea of the feeling he ought to have on the horse's mouth: if, on the contrary, he jerks the thread, instead of holding it with an even and steady feeling, he will hurt his finger; and this is precisely the effect it has on the horse's mouth, and is what makes horses that have been so treated, afraid to go up to the hand and face the bridle.

The pressure of the legs against the horse's sides to keep him up to the hand at the feeling I have just described, must be regulated by his temper; for the rider may rest assured, that if his hands and legs, or, as they are commonly called, *aids*, are rough and unkind, he will fail in attaining his object, for the colt will oppose force by force, and being the stronger of the two, will give him a great deal of trouble, besides exposing him to the risk incidental to a contest of this nature. Horses run away from this cause more than from any other, and all know what numerous, and often fatal, accidents are occasioned thereby.

But should my reader, in spite of all precautions, ever have the misfortune to ride a runaway horse, and he finds him gaining the advantage, and going away with him, he ought to draw the snaffle once or twice sharply through his mouth, and then drop the hand to him; I mean, give him his head suddenly for a moment, this will puzzle him exceedingly, and not knowing what to make of it, he will very likely stop; then feel his mouth again, and thus, by an alternate feeling, and easing the hand, you will recall him to obedience. A rough hand will never make him a useful or a pleasant horse to ride; but light hands, make light mouths: and if all horses were kindly and properly treated, there would be few that would run away.

Lesson III.

Supposing the horse can walk well to his front with his head up, and is beginning to yield to the rider's hand, by playing with and champing the bit; the next demand should be to bend him to the right and left. This at first should be done by halting him, and placing him properly on all four feet, making him stand well up to the bit. In bending the horse, great gentleness should be used, he should never be pulled round by force, nor kept bent too long at one time, but the rider should, with a light and playful hand, engage his attention towards him, and when he yields to the right rein, pat him and unbend him: then try the same to the left. When he has yielded a few times to each hand, place him square, letting him see you are pleased with him; then walk him well out again, and by thus halting and bending, placing him square, and moving him on, during his early lessons, the instructor will be greatly assisted in preparing him for the lesson of "Shoulder-in."

When he answers these demands freely, he must be taught to turn to the right and left; and, in order not to confuse the reader, I will confine myself to explaining the aids for working to the right only—wishing him to bear in mind that the reverse aids are required in working to the left. I will explain the aids that are required in turning to the right. The rider must try to keep the horse up to that free action in the turn, that he had when walking straight to his front; to obtain which, a light feeling of both hands is required to raise his forehand, and both legs must be applied to keep his haunches under him, but the inward or right rein, and the outward or left leg, the stronger. If we wish the horse to turn to the right, the right rein must be felt the stronger, to direct him where to go, with a lighter feeling of the left, to balance and assist the right, so that the snaffle may have almost an equal pressure on both sides of the horse's mouth:

by feeling one rein only, the rider would draw the snaffle through the horse's mouth, and would thus pull the left cheek-piece or ring of the snaffle against the horse's left cheek-bone, having little or no bearing on his bars or gums, so that if he turned at all, it would, in all probability, be in a direction contrary to the one intended.

The rider, as before admonished, must be very attentive to the lightness and kindness of his hands. In working the hands, the little finger is to be turned in and upwards towards the face; and as soon as the horse has answered the aid, the hand is to resume its proper position; and as the assistance of both hands is necessary, so will that of both legs; for when the right rein is felt the stronger, the left leg must be applied in proportion, to make the horse follow the leading rein; the right leg being kept close to assist the left, and oblige the horse to step up to the bit.

As I shall have to use the terms "inward" and "outward," I will explain how they are applied: the hand we work to, whether right or left, is called the inward hand, so that if we turn to the right, we apply the right or inward rein, and the left or outward leg, the stronger, reversing the aids if to the left. Thus the hand we work to, is called the inward, or leading hand, and when riding with a snaffle in a school, should be about three inches below the outward, which is to be kept in a line with the elbow joint.

Now, in turning to the right, the right or inward rein is felt with a double power, in comparison with the left or outward rein, in order to retain a steady feeling. The horse is kept up to the hands by a pressure of both legs, but the left or outward leg, the stronger; and when turned, there must be an equal feeling of both hands with the pressure of the legs to direct him to advance straight to his front.

The rider must judge from his experience of the horse, with what power he must apply his aids, some horses acknowledge the slightest indication, others require the aids more strongly applied.

This lesson, as well as every other, should be repeated until the horse understands, and will answer, the rider's hand and leg, without the assistance of the whip or spur.

In turning, the hands must not be carried to the right nor to the left; they are not to quit the position previously laid down. In all turns, the action is to be made from the wrist, the little fingers turning in and up, towards the face, resuming their place when the horse has answered the aid.

Lesson IV.

When the horse has become somewhat perfect in answering the aids of the hand and leg, the rider should press him to the trot.

In applying the aids for the trot, he must raise the horse's forehand, by a light feeling of both reins, turning the little fingers in and up, towards his face, not with a jerking, unsteady action, but with that light feeling which I have before described; both legs must be smoothly applied to press him up to the hand, and bring his haunches under him, so that when he lifts his foot from the ground, he may have greater power, and more freedom, to put it out to the front. The forehand being relieved by bringing the weight more on to the haunches, enables him to spring and step better up to the light hand, which the rider must be very careful to acquire, and this is only obtained by care and great attention on his own part. The meaning of a light hand, is, that it exercises an alternate feeling and easing of the horse's mouth, by proper attention to which its sensibility is preserved, and the rider's hand formed.

The first lessons in the trot, should be short, and frequently varied with those already gone through. The rider must be very particular in changing the horse's lessons, or he will soon anticipate what is to follow, which must never be allowed. He is never to turn, advance, stop, or rein back, without receiving the proper aids from his rider; nor

must he be kept too long at one thing, or he will become disgusted with his work. The judicious rider will gain almost imperceptibly a little more every day, by changing the lesson from the walk to the trot, and from the trot to the walk again, seeking compliance by gentle aids alone, which are to keep him well up to the hand by the pressure of both legs, and retaining him sufficiently, but lightly, with the hands. The whip and spur, as I said before, must be used as a last resource, when other and kinder means have failed. Attention must be paid to work all lessons till the horse goes as well to one hand as to the other. The trot being a most important and useful lesson, care must be taken to obtain a free and extended action.

The pace should be moderate at first, and always exactly cadenced. 'Cadence,' means an even and distinctly marked time, which the horse must be made to observe in all his paces, if we wish him to be pleasant to ride. Much depends on how he is, or has been, ridden; for if the rider has an uneven bearing on his mouth, that is, feels one rein more strongly than the other, it is not likely the horse can maintain anything like a steady and uniform action. It may now and then happen, that a well-trained horse will do this, in spite of all that a bad rider, with uneven hands and unsteady legs, may do to disturb him; but such cases are rare, as most horses are sure to abandon themselves, as it is called, unless properly retained by the hand, and, at the same time, urged on by the pressure of the legs.

To give a just idea of a cadenced action, we will suppose we have a well-trained horse, and on his back a good rider; we shall then be able to mark a distinct and even interval, as the horse's feet come to the ground; and no one can appreciate the luxury of a good trot who cannot obtain this evenness and uniformity of step.

As the horse improves, he should be made to extend his pace, or as rough riders term it, to trot out. The aids for this are, lightly to raise the horse's head and neck, thus relieving his forehand, and at the same time, urging him

by the pressure of the legs, to bring his weight more on his haunches, so that he can lift his foot up by bending the knee, and extend it well to the front.

Some riders make a great mistake in giving the horse a longer rein to increase his pace, imagining they will succeed by so doing; thus, as it were, letting the horse's head down upon his fore legs, and impeding his speed instead of increasing it: but if you wish a horse to step well out, you must first raise his forehand, and then he has every chance to spring from his haunches, and is enabled to stop, turn, or advance, with greater precision and ease to himself.

The halt is a material part of the lesson, and may be repeated with great advantage. If performed with judgment, it assists the rider in bringing the horse's haunches under him, and raising him in front. When about to halt, the rider should first somewhat animate the horse, and then his mouth must be felt, and the legs firmly, but steadily, applied to stay him, upon which the hand must be eased. Also, in changing from the trot to the walk, from the canter to the trot or walk, the horse should be well pressed up to the hand, keeping in mind, that all changes of pace, should be made with his haunches well under him, the rider's hand to be firm but very light, that the horse may be going freely and well up to the bit at the time the change is made.

Lesson V.

As I have previously directed, that the horse should be reined back in his former lessons before dismissing him, the rider may now try and rein him back while mounted. In this lesson, at the commencement, he must not raise the horse's head too high, more particularly, if the ground is soft; for, by raising him too much in front at first, especially if he is not well collected, and his haunches well

under him, it throws too much weight on the haunches, and this is very likely to make him refuse to rein back, for if he should be weak in the loins, or hocks, it will be a matter of great difficulty for him to do so. With these points, the rider should make himself acquainted, and not require too much at one time; for if he obtains but one step to the rear to-day, he may look for more to-morrow; always taking care to make much of the horse for every act of compliance, as he must bear in mind, that it is easier for him to advance ten paces, than to rein back one.

In going forward, the reins guide the horse, and the legs urge him on; but in reining back, the legs guide him and the bit forces him back. To effect this, the feeling of both hands must be light and equal, which will raise the horse's forehand, the legs being applied to his sides, will press his haunches under him, and oblige him to step up to the bridle, but being retained by the hands, he will not be able to place his foot forward, so that he must either hold it in the air, or place it backwards; and after every step to the rear, the hand should be eased. In this lesson, much attention must be paid to the lightness and evenness of the hands and legs; for the object of it is to lighten the horse's forehand, bringing the weight more upon the haunches, to enable him to work the bending lessons with greater ease to himself, and also to prepare him for the canter.

Lesson VI.

The horse by this time ought to understand and answer the aids for walking, bending, reining back, and turning to both hands; therefore he must now commence the bending lesson, or shoulder-in. Now, as few of my readers may have a riding-house to work in, they will have to find a substitute for one; any enclosed square space will answer

the purpose; and if that cannot be readily obtained, a grass field must do, the hedges representing the walls of the manège.

The horse should be placed by the side of one of the walls or hedges, at one yard interval from it. The rider, without moving the horse's hind feet, must turn his forehand nearly half to the right; thus, his fore feet will be on one line, and his hind feet on another. The rider must sit square to the front as his horse stands, with his left or outward hand as high as the elbow; the right or inward one three inches lower; the horse's forehand should be well raised, and he must stand well up to the bit, (for the higher he is raised in front in this lesson, the easier he can perform it,) his head yielding to the right rein, and his body slightly curved. The rider, however, must not expect to get this from him all at once; for if, for the first lesson or two, he yields to the inward or right rein, letting his feet work on one line, it will be sufficient; then unbend him, encourage him, and let him walk out again to ease his neck, after a short interval try him again, getting a little more from him every time, until the rider can keep him in the position I have described above. Beyond all things, I wish him to understand, that he is not to pull the horse's head round by force, for a man with nothing but a halter can do that; but this is not the thing required: the horse is to yield his mouth to the slightest indication from the rider's hand; and to be in a proper position to work the shoulder-in, he should be standing well up to the bit, as I have before mentioned, and slightly curved, from the poll of his neck to the last joint of his back; and as this position is very fatiguing, he should not be kept in it too long at one time. The object of the shoulder-in and passage, is to supple the horse in the neck and ribs, to give free action to his shoulders, and teach him to obey the pressure of the leg.

The rider must understand and remember the difference, between the inward and outward hand and leg, or he will never work these lessons correctly.

Right Shoulder-in.

As I have described how the horse ought to be placed, in order to commence the right shoulder-in, I will now explain the aids to work it.

In the first place, the rider should be very careful that his hands and legs act together, or he will confuse and disturb the horse: they are to balance and assist each other.

In this lesson the left or outward rein raises the horse's forehand, and leads him away to the left, the right rein bends him, and causes him to yield his mouth to the right or inward hand, the pressure of the right leg obliges him to cross his legs, by passing his off feet in front of his near; the left leg being closed, keeps him up to the hands, and prevents him taking too long a side step to the left; it also obliges him to step up to the hand and face his bridle; the shoulders should be kept well leading: thus the horse being raised in front with his haunches under him, and balanced between the rider's hands and legs, is bent to the right, but stepping sideways to the left, his fore and hind feet moving on two parallel lines, the hind feet one yard from the wall, or outside of the manège; for should the horse get his hind feet too close to the wall, he would not have room to pass one foot in front of the other without striking his hocks, which might cause the injury termed capped hocks; but the rider's outward or left leg should prevent this, by being closed strong enough to keep him up to the hand. This lesson should be worked very slowly.

For the left shoulder-in, the aids must be reversed: that is, the right rein raises the horse's forehand and leads him away to the right, and the left rein bends him; the left leg makes him cross his legs, and the right keeps him up to the hand.

To Turn when working Shoulder-in.

All turns when working the shoulder-in, either right or left, are made on the horse's fore feet. I must here remind my reader, that he is to imagine he is working his horse in a square, at each corner of which he has to make a turn. In working to the right, when the horse's fore feet come within two yards of the corner, the rider must stay them by feeling the right or inward rein, a little stronger, and by a stronger pressure of the right or inward leg, he will oblige the horse to pass his hind feet round to the left, his fore feet acting as a pivot during the turn. When the turn is completed, he must lead him away with the left or outward rein.

To Halt.

To halt when working the right shoulder-in, feel both reins, and close the left or outward leg; if the left, feel both reins, and close the right or outward leg.

The Half-Passage.

When the horse has made some progress in the lessons of right and left shoulder-in, he should be taught the half-passage. To begin which, he is prepared, when working the right shoulder-in. All the rider will have to do, is to press him gently forward with both legs, and when he enters the new line, the calf of the left leg must be applied to bring his quarters gradually into the proper oblique direction, the shoulders to be kept well leading. The horse moves, and looks towards his right; the right rein preserves the bend and leads him; the left raises his head, and assists and balances the power of the right; the left leg obliges the

horse to place his near foot in front of the off, and the right leg presses him up to the hand, and prevents his quarters from coming too much to the right, and keeps him in the proper direction; his fore and hind feet moving on two diagonal lines from one side of the manège to the other.

In the half-passage, the horse only half-crosses his legs, placing one foot in front of the other, and gaining as much ground to his front as he does to his right, his fore and hind feet arriving at the opposite wall or side of the manège together, when he should be pressed forward for a few paces, and placed for the left shoulder-in.

The Passage.

When the horse has been practised a few times at the shoulder-in and half-passage, and the rider finds that he answers the aids pretty well, he must teach him the full passage. When working the right shoulder-in, the horse is prepared for the right pass. To effect this, the rider must feel both reins; this will stay him for a moment, making as it were a half-halt, giving him time to balance himself, in order that he may change his feet; for in working the right shoulder-in the horse passes his off feet in front of his near, so that by easing the pressure of the right leg and closing the left the stronger, the rider will cause the horse to change his feet, and pass the near in front of the off feet, the right rein both bending and leading.

The rider will observe in the passage, that the inward or right rein both bends and leads; the outward or left rein balances and assists the inward; the outward or left leg obliges the horse to pass his near foot in front of the off, and the inward or right leg keeps him up to the hands, and prevents him from taking too long a side step to the right. Thus, in the right shoulder-in, the horse is bent to the right and steps to the left; but in the passage, he both bends and steps to the right, following the inward or right

rein, passing square across the manège from one wall to the other; and when arrived at the opposite wall, the rider must square him, encourage him for what he has done, and commence the left shoulder-in, or he may be turned to the right, and continue the right pass.

To Turn in the Passage.

As in working the shoulder-in the turns are made on the fore feet, so in working the passage, they are made on the hind feet; to do which, if the rider wishes to turn to the right, he must stay the horse's hind feet by closing the right leg, the right rein leading his forehand round, the left rein supporting and assisting the right, the left leg being closed, prevents his quarters from swerving to the left during the turn. When the turn is made, he can resume the aids for the right passage, by easing the pressure of the right or inward leg, and lead off with the right or inward rein.

To Halt in the Passage.

To halt the horse in the right pass, feel both reins, and close the right or inward leg.

To Turn from Right Pass to Right Shoulder-in.

To turn the horse from right pass to right shoulder-in, feel the right rein, and close the right leg strongly; at the same time supporting him with the left leg and rein. The horse should be made to turn on his own centre, his fore and hind feet describing a circle. When turned, lead him off with the left rein.

The rider must understand that I have represented the horse to be working all this time to the right, and have only explained the aids to the right, therefore, in working to the left, all the aids must be reversed.

Much nicety of hand is required in these lessons, for unless the rider's hands and legs act together, the horse does not know which to obey; but is puzzled and confused, and makes no progress in his training.

Lesson VII.

If the horse is intended for military purposes, for the Yeomanry Cavalry, or the mounted Police, he must be taught to carry the sword. In order to train him to this, the rider should at first wear the scabbard only. When he becomes accustomed to that, he may place the sword in it, and occasionally halting, let him take both reins in his right hand, holding them at such a length as to have but a very light feeling on the horse's mouth, then with his left, gently shake the sword in the scabbard, soothing and confirming him at the same time with the voice and hand. Repeat this again and again, rattling the sword a little louder every time; thus, by alternately rattling it and encouraging him, he will soon allow it to be fully drawn, gently at first, of course; the rider taking great care not to strike or needlessly alarm him with it. This will prepare him for any thing that he may be required for with the sword, such as the sword exercise, &c. When the rider is about to do any thing he thinks may frighten the young horse, he should never have him tight in hand, for that leads him to suspect he is going to be hurt; he must give him as much rein as he can with safety; and if he has treated him with kindness in his former lessons, the horse will have so much confidence, that he will not be wantonly exposed to injury, as will disarm him in a great measure of his natural timidity.

When the horse has become accustomed to the sword, he must be taught to stand to be fired from; and for this purpose we commence with a pistol, which, if it has the percussion lock, we at first put only a cap upon; and when he will allow that to be exploded without alarm, shake a little powder into the barrel without ramming it down; and when he has become used to this, load the pistol in the ordinary way (with blank cartridge of course) till he will stand with confidence to be fired from.

If the pistol you use has the old-fashioned lock, put a little powder into the pan and some into the barrel (without ramming it down), and fire it off instead of exploding the cap.

Lesson VIII.

The horse having been well-instructed in the foregoing lessons, and carefully ridden well up to the hand in the trot, must next be advanced to the canter, and if he has been attentively instructed in the trot, this will be an easy lesson; the rider taking the precaution not to require too much at the commencement, but increase every day according to the horse's strength.

The canter is a delicate and somewhat artificial pace, being nothing more nor less than a shortened gallop; and when well performed, is very showy, easy, and elegant; but as the reverse is often the case, owing to the imperfect training of the horse, or the unskilfulness of the rider, it is very unsightly, and offensive to the eye of the practised horseman.

At first, the canter is mostly very long and loose, more particularly if the horse has not been well ridden up to the hand in his former lessons; but by practice and attention from the rider, it will, by degrees, become shorter and more collected. The canter being a more violent exertion than the trot, the lessons should be regulated accord-

ingly, the rider taking care not to collect the horse too soon, but to let it be done by degrees.

Let it, for a short time, be the extended pace, or what is called, a hand gallop, allowing the horse liberty to exert himself, that he may learn to cover his ground; after some time, try to collect him a little more, and although raising him in front a trifle every lesson, the rider must endeavour to keep him up to a free and unconstrained action, rising higher in front and springing more from his haunches so that when properly trained and with a good rider on his back, he might be made to canter, and to all appearance, at the extended canter, by the side of another horse walking well out. Many young horses, however, are collected too suddenly in the canter, and by these means, are crippled instead of being suppled, so that they never canter well afterwards.

In applying the aids for the canter, the rider must be particular that they are smooth, and well timed; the horse being urged to the trot, he should feel both reins lightly; this will raise him and lighten his forehand; a pressure of both legs will bring his haunches under him, and a double feeling of the right rein, with an extra pressure of the left leg, will cause him to strike off with the right fore leg, followed by the right hind one, which his called, true and united.

To lead with the left fore leg, the aids must be reversed; that is, the double feeling must be on the left rein, and the pressure from the right leg, and attention must be paid to time the application of the aids when the horse is raising his fore foot.

I have explained the meaning of 'true' and 'united,' as applied to the canter; it may be necessary to say something of the opposite terms, 'false' and 'disunited.' A horse is said to canter false, if, when going to the right, he leads with his near fore foot, which if followed by the off hind one, is both false and disunited. If, in cantering to the left, he should lead with his off fore foot, that would be false; and if followed by the near hind one, both false and disunited.

A good rider will detect this immediately, without any assistance from his eye, by an uneasy rocking motion, and as often as it occurs, will pull the horse quietly up to the trot, and again apply the aids smoothly, taking care not to lose his temper, nor punish the horse till he has exhausted all other means to obtain his end, and even then, the punishment must be administered with judgment and discretion.

Too much attention cannot be given to the lightness and delicacy of the hands, and these indispensables to a good horseman, come only by time and practice. When once acquired, they are the sure means of safety and good riding, for it is from the control exercised by the hand, that a rider is enabled to subdue the most violent horse; while the firmest seat will avail nothing, if not seconded by a light and skilful hand.

Lesson IX.

Having proceeded with the colt so far through the routine of his training, should he have gone on successfully, his next instruction must be in leaping; and here again we must advance by degrees, and begin by placing the bar on the ground, which, when he steps clearly over, we may raise a few inches, increasing the height gradually; and by encouragement, before and after each leap, he will soon learn to follow the man leading him over it. For a standing leap, from two to three feet in height ought to be considered sufficient.

The horse should be made to approach the leap at an animated pace, but on no account, be suffered to hurry. A horse that is impatient in going up to the bar, must be halted a few steps short of it, and reined back, as often as he shows unsteadiness, or be led over the bar on the ground again; but on no account must he be allowed to hurry; for if he is, he will become an uncertain, and consequently, a dangerous leaper.

Having become familiar with the standing leap, by following the man over it, he should now be mounted and ridden up to the bar at a trot, or canter, taking care to place it so that it may fall at the least touch, and at a very moderate height, as well to avoid hurting the man by the horse falling over it, as intimidating himself; the consequence of which would be, his refusing his leap on some more important occasion.

The rider, when at the leap, should raise the horse's forehand by a light feeling of both reins, and with a strong pressure of the legs, urge him forward: immediately the horse rises, he must ease the hand, to give him room to spring forward, and when over, collect him, by a steady feeling of both reins, supporting him well with the legs. The rider should preserve an easy carriage of body; his own judgment will soon inform him, what the inclination forward should be when the horse rises, and what backward, when he alights.

The leap must not be repeated too often; two or three times in one lesson will be enough, otherwise it will weary and disgust the horse, and get him into the habit of refusing.

Lesson X.

The snaffle, which has hitherto been used, must now be replaced by the bit, or curb bridle. This must be carefully fitted, according to my previous instructions, and when properly adjusted, the rider is to mount with the bit rein instead of the snaffle, and he must bear in mind, that a light hand is now particularly necessary, as the bit is so much more severe than the snaffle. In order that the rider may avoid mistakes, by confusing the reins, let him observe that the bridoon reins are secured in the centre by a buckle, while the bit reins are stitched. By attending to this distinction, he may always know which he is using.

Previous to mounting, the rider should place the centre of the bridoon reins about twelve inches up the horse's neck, and the bit reins about six inches behind them; the reins will then be properly placed for mounting; he should now take the centre of the bridoon through the full of the left hand; and with the right hand the centre of the bit rein between the thumb and forefinger, closing them together, and place the little finger of the left hand between them, with the left hand below the right; let him then draw the bit reins through the left hand with the right, till he feels the horse's mouth very lightly; the right hand must then drop the reins, and take a lock of the horse's mane, and firmly twist it round the thumb of the left hand, which is to be closed on the mane and reins, for if his hand should let the mane slip in the act of mounting, it would throw a great weight upon the horse's mouth, and might be attended with danger. He must then go through the remainder of the instructions for mounting as before laid down. When mounted, release the mane from the thumb of the left hand, retaining the reins in it: the left hand now becomes, what the soldier terms, the bridle hand, and should be placed opposite the centre of the body.

The right hand then takes the bridoon rein, and draws it through the left; thus he will have three reins in the left hand, two below the little finger, and one between it and the third finger, leaving for the right hand the right bridoon rein, which is to be held between the third and little finger, the feeling on all four reins being equal, except, in the early lessons with the bit, when the rider must feel it but very lightly, increasing a little more every lesson. The bit reins must lie flat and smooth one upon the other on the second joint of the forefinger of the left hand with the thumb upon them; the bridoon rein over the bit reins next to the palm of the hand; the bit reins, as I have said before, must at first be rather loose, although held properly, the rider using the bridoon as a snaffle as he has a rein in each hand. After the horse as gone through a part of his lesson,

the rider should halt him, and give him his head a little that he may rest his neck, and before moving on again, just play with the bit reins, by moving the bit lightly in the horse's mouth, which will prepare him to face it, and if he yields to it, that should be deemed sufficient; for the rider must bear in mind, that the bit is of great power, and, at the same time, consider how sensitive the horse's mouth is, and therefore he ought to pay great attention to the lightness of his hand when riding on the bit, and by degrees, the horse will become reconciled to it, when the preceding lessons of turning, bending, and reining back, may be repeated; but it is not till he will obey the bit without tossing his head or showing any other uneasiness, that he should be ridden on the bit alone. Should he show any of these signs the rider ought to examine the bit to see if it fits properly, which, if it does, and he is still restless, he must return to the snaffle till he will face the bit; which, when he will do freely, the rider may drop the bridoon rein, and ride on the bit alone; but he must bear in mind, that he has now but one hand, and that he has a right rein in that hand, therefore he must be very particular in preserving its position, exactly opposite the centre of his body, and but three inches from it; the right arm hanging easy from the shoulder by the side.

From this position of the bridle hand, the little finger should have three lines of action, inward and upwards, to guide the horse: the first towards the breast; this will raise his forehand, halt him, and rein him back: the second towards the right shoulder; this, with the proper application of the left leg, will turn him to the right: and the third, towards the left shoulder, which, with the aid of the right leg, will turn him to the left: the hand being returned to its proper position as soon as the horse answers the aid.

The little finger should move on these lines only, in giving the aids; thus the horse is to be guided and raised up at each turn, by the inward or leading rein, the out-

ward acting in unison with, and assisting it; the legs also assisting the hands; but in all turns, the outward leg the stronger, and when the turn is made, the rider must pay great attention, or he will be riding on one rein; for let me remind him again, that he has a right rein in his left hand, so that unless he is very particular in keeping his hand exactly opposite the centre of his body, he will lose the feeling of the left rein; for should he get his bridle hand the least to the left, it will take all the power from that rein, and thus all the pressure will be on the off side of the horse's mouth; so that if he wished to advance straight to his front, he could not possibly do so; since, to enable him to do that, there must be an equal feeling on both sides of the horse's mouth. It will be a great assistance to the rider in advancing on a line, to fix his eye on some stationary object, and he will find his horse go to it; for the eye will direct his hand; and the hand, the horse.

The Bending Lesson with the Bit.

In working the bending lesson with the bit, great attention will be required for the right shoulder-in. and the right passage; because in both these the bend is made by the right or inward rein. This must be done by shortening it an inch, which can be effected by placing the thumb of the right hand in the middle between the two bit reins, and turning it upwards, while bringing the horse to the position of shoulder-in, which must be done by degrees, by first shortening his pace.

The rider will find he gains sufficient bend by shortening the right rein one inch when the horse is placed; and as he has but one hand to raise the horse in front, to bend him to the right, and to lead him away with the left rein, he must be very particular that his hands and legs act in unison, and that his aids are smooth and well timed: the horse to be well raised in front, with an even pressure

of the outward leg, to keep him up to the hand, and prevent him from taking too long a side step to his left.

The same instructions apply to the right pass, with this exception,—the right rein bends and leads, and the right leg keeps him up to the hand, as well as prevents him taking too long a side step to the right.

Let the rider bear in mind, that it is the outward leg that keeps the horse up to the hand in working the shoulder-in, and the inward one in the passage.

To work the left shoulder-in and left pass, the aids must be reversed. It is necessary to add, that the bend to either hand should be very slight, that is, the rider must not attempt to pull the horse's head round to his own knee, for that will cripple him; but if, when sitting square to the front and upright in the saddle, he can just see the horse's inward eye, the bend is sufficient.

Lesson XI.

When the horse has been duly prepared by the practice of the previous lessons, it will be necessary to require something further from him in his canter. A military horse is not supposed to be completely formed until he can canter with ease in a small circle; and can, from that pace, turn to the right or left on a straight line.

The lesson of the circle should be commenced at a walk. I would recommend the rider to practise this a little every day, after the horse begins to understand and answer the aids of the hand and leg.

The circle should at first be large, that is, from fifteen to twenty yards in diameter; and as the horse is confirmed in his balance, and the rider in his seat, the circle should be gradually diminished. The horse should be made to move on it for some days at a walk, yielding to the inward rein, but well supported with the outward leg and

rein, to keep him stepping up to the hands. If the rider finds the horse is not going up, and yielding to the inward rein, he must press him up to it by closing the inward leg more strongly.

When he has acquired a firm even pace at a walk in the circle, he should be urged to a gentle trot, and afterwards to a short collected canter. When working on a circle, the hind feet should follow the track of the fore feet, for if he should throw his haunches too much inwards, he will strain his hind quarters; or if he should throw them outwards, he will lay too much stress on his shoulders. These are errors to which a young horse is very liable, and should be guarded against.

If a horse shows unusual dislike or awkwardness in the circle, and no natural impediment be the cause, he should be put back to the exercise of his previous lessons of the shoulder-in and passage, which will, in a short time, bring him to that of the circle, without difficulty.

The practice of the various aids required in the preceding lessons, will have prepared the young horseman, as well as the young horse, for those of the circle. These exercises are essential to every horseman, and will enable him to gain advantage over an obstinate and awkward horse, in proportion to his skill in their application. It is not sufficient that the rules by which the horse is to be governed, should be merely known; they must be practised until they become habitual. To this end, much exercise, long perseverance, and great attention, are requisite on the part of the student; but when these qualifications are once attained, almost any difficulties may be overcome.

The exercise of the circle confirms the equilibrium and unity of the rider and horse. In moving round a circle, in order to preserve the poise of his body, the horse must necessarily lean inwards, in proportion to the size of the circle, and the speed at which he is made to go, the rider must conform to, and partake of, that inclination, or the

equilibrium of both will be disturbed, and he will find it difficult to retain his seat. He should also be very careful to make the circle true, and to let it form a part of the daily lessons.

Lesson XII.

I am supposing the horse has hitherto been only ridden in a school or training ground; but if things have gone right so far, it will now be proper to familiarize him with objects which he will have to encounter out of doors; for which purpose he must be taken into the streets. And no doubt, at first, he will hear and see many things that will rather startle him; but the rider must make great allowances, soothing and confirming him with his voice and hand, and also taking care to allow him as much rein as is consistent with prudence; for if, on approaching any thing he thinks will frighten the horse, he begins to shorten the reins, as if he would hold him by force, he causes more alarm than the object he fancies he is taking precautions against; and not only prevents the horse from passing on quietly, were he even disposed to do so, but frequently interprets the result of his own bad management into obstinacy on the part of the horse, and punishes him accordingly; thus he does as much mischief by this one act, as a good rider can repair in a month.

A horse that has been uniformly treated with kindness by his rider, will have such confidence in him, that he will overcome his own fears in compliance with his master's will, and thus will soon become familiar with any object he may meet.

Having gone through the foregoing lessons, I will notice some of the habits that imperfectly trained horses exhibit; and I will begin with what is termed Restiveness. Now although I have said I have some doubts about there

being such a thing as a naturally vicious horse, I am perfectly aware that some are much better disposed than others. This does not shake my belief that most of their tricks and dangerous habits may be traced to ignorance or undue severity in training. They may either have had demands made upon them to which their strength was not equal, or been required to perform lessons for which they had not been properly prepared, and punished for their failure; and thus, in self-defence, have been driven into habits they would never have contracted under kinder and more judicious management. These generally consist of a rapid variation of plunges, rearing, running sideways against walls, and carriages, or bolting altogether; in fact, doing all they can to get rid of their tormentor; and the oftener they succeed, the more dangerous they become, and more difficult to redeem, and are by no means pleasant customers to the best rider; for to have any chance with them the greatest judgment and discretion are necessary. In the first place, a good rider will not challenge such a horse as this; but endeavour by all fair means to win him to quietness. He should have confidence in his seat, a good hand, and above all, a good temper, as I am certain a bad tempered man will never defeat a bad tempered horse; for as soon as he loses his temper he loses his judgment, and then he is lost altogether.

The pace at first should be very gentle as well to give an opportunity of discovering his tricks, as also not to provoke him to quarrel; on the contrary, every means should be employed to induce him to go quietly: let fighting be your last resource, and the more he loses his temper, the more you keep yours. I do not, however, mean to say that chastisement is altogether to be withheld; but whenever it cannot be avoided, it should be administered with judgment and decision; still, I am of opinion, that nothing so soon beats a restive horse as a long lesson and untiring patience.

The rider must be on his guard with a horse of this

description: I mean, that he should not sit carelessly nor loosely in the saddle; for when the horse perceives that to be the case, he knows it is a good opportunity to commence his favourite pranks, whatever they may be; for all that are of this temper, mostly have a favourite way of their own in commencing their tricks, and it is quite uncertain to the rider, until he has ridden him once or twice, in what way he will begin; therefore, he must always be prepared. In nine cases out of ten, he will find the horse begin the attack by stopping suddenly, and twisting sharply round, either to the right or left, but mostly to the latter, so that the rider should, as I have said, be always on his guard; for if the horse can take him by surprise in this way, he will most likely be loosened in his seat, and before he can recover it, the horse will repeat the move, whatever it may be, and the rider may find himself on the ground before he is aware of it.

Where a horse has the habit of turning suddenly round, which those of this temper will do when they feel a fresh rider on their back, he should turn him quietly to his former position, and try him again, for he most likely feels an inclination to test his rider's skill, who must therefore endeavour to persuade him not to resist, but give him to understand that he wishes him to go quietly, by trying him again and again. If he will not come to the rider's terms by fair means, he should attack him on his own ground; but it should be where he cannot hurt himself or his rider, taking care to avoid the streets as much as possible, until he answers readily the hand and leg. As I said just now, the rider should be willing to go his way for a little time; what I mean by this, is, if he turns round once for his own pleasure, without any provocation, make him turn round three or four times for yours in the same direction that he turned for himself; and as long as you are turning him round to the right, keep the right spur well against his side; if to the left, the left spur; always taking care to let him be a turn or two in your debt. Attacking him on his own

ground is a thing that he did not perhaps expect, and when you square him to his front, it is most likely he will walk on quietly; then take care not to provoke him to quarrel farther by beating him, and after he has tried this trick a few times, and finds that you are as willing to turn as he is, he will give up the contest. There are many ways of defeating the horse without severity; for we must bear in mind, that cruelty brought him to this state of stubbornness; therefore, after the rider has turned him round, and he still refuses to go forward in the direction required, he should turn him again with his quarters towards that direction, and attack him by reining him back. This will be an appropriate punishment, for it is easier for him to advance ten yards than rein back one. Some horses will try to take their rider against walls or railings; and an inexperienced one would, in nine cases out of ten, try to pull the horse's head away from them, but by so doing, he would expose his own leg to danger; instead of this, he should pull the horse's head to the wall or railings, and then if he hurts any one, it will be himself, which being a result he did not intend nor anticipate, he will be cautious how he repeats the trick. Thus, as I said before, the rider being on his guard, and anticipating the moves the horse may make, is ready at such a time to thwart him, and these are the means that defeat him: cruelty will never do so, for he has had too much of that already.

My opinion is, that a horse confirmed in these tricks can never be safely relied on, for although an experienced rider may be able to defeat him, yet it will be a work of time, combined with great patience and some danger; and as soon as he had a chance with an inferior rider, he would resort to his old tricks again. An exception may be met with here and there; but this is the exception, the rule is as I say.

Rearing.

This vice is generally adopted by the colt in his early lessons to defend himself against rough handling. I am quite aware that a horse will rear slightly now and then in play, and from mere buoyancy of spirits, but does not make a practice of doing so when urged to go up to the hand. Now many do this; and I will endeavour to account for it, by supposing (as has often been the case) a colt entrusted for his education to a man in no way qualified for the task, whether in skill and experience, or temper and judgment, and who has no idea of any thing but sheer strength, as a remedy for whatever opposition or awkwardness the colt may happen to exhibit; accordingly, whenever an occasion of this kind occurs, (and they are likely to be many,) he drags the snaffle through the colt's mouth with all the force of his clumsy hand, and before the poor animal can recover from the pain and surprise of such treatment, he feels the whip across his shoulder or quarters, and perhaps the spurs rammed into his sides: and after having been subjected to this usage once or twice, the moment he makes a blunder he expects a repetition of it; therefore, to save his mouth, up he comes; and finding his rider dare not hold on by the bit, he adopts it as a defence as soon as he feels it brought to bear on his bars. I have taken great interest in detecting the origin of bad habits in horses, and have had as wide a field of observation as most people, and am confident, that this is most frequently the cause of dangerous rearing.

The advice cannot be too often repeated, that every one who has to do with horses, especially in training them, should bear in mind, that a light, kind hand, combined with good temper and judgment, will gain more from them, than all the whips and spurs that have ever been manufactured.

Stumbling.

Stumbling may proceed from several causes: from some defect in the formation of the shoulder or foot, from weakness, or from imperfect training. A horse liable to this mistake is not a pleasant one to ride, and certainly not a safe one to go to sleep upon, for he demands constant attention, or the result may be a roll in the mud or dust. Such a horse must never be allowed a loose rein, but must be kept well together with his head up; the rider also must preserve a proper seat, and not throw too much weight upon the shoulders, so that in case of a mistake, he may have the chance of recovering and supporting him, whereas, if a man sits any how, and any where, and rides with a foot or so of loose rein dangling on the horse's neck, it requires no seer, to predict what the consequence will be in the event of a stumble.

My method of riding a stumbling horse is, to keep him well up to the hand by a more than ordinary pressure of the legs, to raise his forehand so as to oblige him to lift his foot, and bend his knee before attempting to put it forward, which will improve his action, and remedy his natural or acquired awkwardness, as much as it is to be remedied.

It is also a good plan to take no more notice of these blunders, than to collect and support him; for horses are mostly very sensible when they have made a mistake, and nervous as to the consequences, which being for the most part punishment, in the anticipation of which, and in the attempt to avoid it, they will jump from side to side, or spring straight forward, so that from this habit they become unsafe for a timid rider.

Over-Reach,

Also called Clacking, is caused by the toe of the hind shoe striking against the fore one, owing to the hind foot

overtaking the fore one before it is sufficiently advanced to be clear of it.

The horses most liable to do this by nature, are such as have high hind quarters, and low forehands, but many do it from slovenliness of action, and carelessness on the part of the rider. The remedy for it is much the same as for stumbling. The horse must be urged by the legs to step more actively to his front, and by so doing, he will acquire a more even length of pace. It is worth a little trouble and attention to correct this trick, for the noise is very unpleasant, and by no means complimentary to the rider; nor is it wholly free from danger, for it may happen, and often does, that the fore shoe is loosened, or even wrenched off by a repetition of blows, for which the farrier is blamed, and often very unjustly. A more serious accident than this may occur, (viz.) for the toe of the hind shoe to hang in the heel of the fore one, in which case, a very serious fall is almost inevitable.

An over-ridden and tired horse may occasionally be heard to clack; but then it proceeds from over fatigue, without blame to himself or the rider; and this is almost the only occasion when it is excusable.

Shying.

My method of treating a horse accustomed to shy, is, not to restrain him too much by shortening the reins, and keeping him tight in hand, but to take as little notice as possible of the mistake; and if the object be stationary, to pass it frequently to convince him that he has nothing to dread; when, by patting him and giving him as much rein as will in a great measure take the pressure of the bit off his mouth, and letting him stand and look at what he seems afraid of for a short time, he will soon gain confidence.

He should not be flogged for shying, since it proceeds

from fear and natural timidity; nor have his mouth punished with the bit, as I am sorry to say, is the practice of some who call themselves riders, so that instead of being cured of his propensities, he grows every day worse, and then, as a last resource, is sent to be ridden by a military rough-rider; and I, for one, have had many severe trials of patience on the one hand, in acquiring the confidence of horses that have been so treated, and much personal risk on the other, from their violence.

As a general rule, I have said punishment must be avoided as much as possible. In cases, however, of waywardness and obstinacy, it must be had recourse to, since the fault is in this case the horse's own; but even then, the rider must first consider whether he has properly applied the aids, and be very careful not to punish the horse for his own mistake; for if one person wished to address another on any particular subject, and did not put a proper question, he could not in return expect a direct answer; in like manner, if the proper aids are not applied, the horse cannot answer them; for some riders, when they see any thing they think the horse will start at, begin to shorten the reins and press him on with their legs, and thus set him capering by their own act, whereas he would very likely have passed the object quietly, if the rider had not been the more frightened of the two.

I am aware that this is not the usual method of treating shying horses, and am quite prepared to hear it condemned; but the experience of many years has convinced me that it is the kindest and most effectual method: and I repeat what I have implied before, that one pat of the hand on the horse's neck will gain more from him in the way of obedience, than all the whips and spurs in the kingdom. The former will inspire confidence in, and fondness for, his master; while the latter will only procure a sulky and unwilling compliance, and very frequently not even that.

A horse, to be well trained, must obey his rider's slightest indication, whether of hand or leg, with confidence and

alacrity; but compulsory obedience, and that which is rendered only through dread of punishment, is utterly worthless, as it may be withheld at the very moment we require it most.

We will dwell a little longer on this point, and suppose a horse shies at an object on his right; the inexperienced rider will often pull his head round in the same direction, and this arises not more from not knowing better what to do, than to enable him by the assistance of his hand to retain his seat, which is severely tested when the horse swerves suddenly and unexpectedly, but which ought to be preserved by a just equilibrium of the body, and not by holding on by the bridle, which privilege no horse with a light and delicate mouth will grant, for he will in all probability rear to take the pressure of the bit off his mouth, and very often in this way gets rid of his rider, who will not allow that he is at all in fault, but imputes the blame to the horse. I will endeavour to show how he was wrong. By bringing the horse's head round to the object that alarmed him, and not using the left leg, he will in nine cases out of ten run sideways to the left, away from the object he is afraid of, and his rider's intended aids: but on the contrary, should he feel the left rein the stronger, applying at the same time the left leg, and also strongly carrying his left hand over a little towards the right, at the same time pressing the left rein firmly against the horse's neck to assist the right hand, he would oblige him to go sideways up to the object he was afraid of, with his head turned a little from it. Should the horse shy at an object on his left, the aids must be reversed. By adopting these rules, and by kindness and forbearance, the horse will be inspired with such confidence in his rider, and take such pleasure in obeying him, that he will freely face those objects to which he has a natural antipathy, thus overcoming his constitutional timidity for the gratification or advantage of his master; for which, the least he ought to do is, to treat him with kindness and consideration, never taxing his powers beyond what they are calculated to bear.

DEFECTS AND INFIRMITIES.

I will endeavour, as briefly as possible, to mention a few of the more common defects and infirmities that are met with in horses, with which the rider should make himself acquainted, and allow for them in training.

The Head.

Some horses have not only badly formed heads, but have them badly put on; much, however, may be done by pains and attention, to accustom them to carry their heads as near the proper position as nature will allow.

A horse with a thick and narrow jole, between which there is hardly space for the windpipe, can never carry his head properly; should the rider persist in the attempt to make him, he will, by pressing him up to the bit, impede his respiration, and very likely cause him to fall. I am led to mention these things with a hope that the rider may be induced to examine his horse, and endeavour to become acquainted with his defects, and ride him accordingly, as horses are often severely punished for disobedience, when from some natural impediment they are unable to comply.

No one expects a deformed man to carry himself as erect and firm as one that is free from such an affliction. Why, then, should we be more unreasonable with a deformed horse? It is, therefore, a part of the rider's business to make himself acquainted with the defects of his horse, and to ride him accordingly.

A Low Shoulder.

A horse of this description is very unpleasant to ride, for the rider sits as though he were always going down hill, and his weight is constantly pressing on the play of the shoulder, and impeding its action; therefore, such a horse is unfit for the saddle; but still, if it is required to

train him for such a purpose, something may be done to improve his natural defect by raising his forehand a little more day by day, and in time, his carriage may be improved, though he will never be a pleasant horse to ride, and had much better be used for draught.

The Narrow Chest.

A horse with a narrow chest cannot endure fatigue, for he soon becomes distressed for wind, his lungs not having sufficient room to expand.

The form of the chest, therefore, makes a material difference to the horse, for while the deep shouldered and broad chested horse will do his work with comparative ease to himself, the narrow chested one will be labouring for want of wind and strength.

On the form of the chest and soundness of the lungs, the health and power of the horse depend; but if he be defective here and be forced to the extent of his speed, he must soon give in or fall, where the well-formed horse will scarcely be fatigued, with the additional advantage of being very pleasant to ride.

The Back.

Some horses are very long in the back; and these should not be pulled up too suddenly, for by so doing, they are liable to suffer in the loins and in other ways. Others have hollow backs, and these are generally pleasant to ride and sit on, and mostly very easy in their paces, so that many would prefer them to a straight, or what is termed, a roach back. Neither conformation is, in my opinion, a deformity, unless in the extreme; but the rider must be very careful in changing from the trot to a walk, or from the canter to a walk, not to pull them up too sharply, as from their formation they are weak in the back and loins, and consequently liable to injury in those parts.

The Quarters.

Horses differ very much in the shape of their quarters. There are all the shades between the handsome and well formed to those which are ugly and deformed. Should they approach within two or three degrees of the latter description, the rider will feel a very unpleasant sensation from their imperfect action. But there are horses whose quarters could by no means be pronounced handsome, that are quite capable of doing their work well, though, of course, they are not so pleasing to the eye.

The Hocks.

The hocks are subject to many diseases, such as curbs, thoroughpin, spavins, &c., which cause weakness and imperfect action of the joints. Such horses should not be pulled up sharply, cantered much, nor reined back on soft ground; nor, indeed, put to any work that throws much weight upon the hocks.

The Pastern.

A horse with a weak and straight pastern is very unsafe to ride; and so much the worse if he has in addition a low and straight shoulder. Such a horse requires the greatest attention from his rider. He should be made to preserve a very even cadence in all his paces, and never be hurried; if he is, he will be almost sure to fall. The rider should have a very light and even hand on him and a very steady leg, so as not to cause his step to be uneven and uncertain.

The Foot.

The foot is subject to many defects; among which we may mention contraction, diseased and tender frogs, corns, &c., which cause him to step badly and without confidence.

A horse suffering from these will, if he treads on anything sharp, drop, as if he were going to fall, therefore, much caution is necessary in riding him to give him all the support and assistance possible.

The rider will do well, in addition, to keep him well up to the hand; to pick his road for him, so as to avoid sharp stones, &c.: indeed, this should always be done, let the horse's feet be ever so sound.

Shoeing

Owners of horses cannot pay too much attention to shoeing, for horses have been irremediably lamed by the ignorance and carelessness of farriers; and when we consider that the hardest part of a horse's foot, namely, the outer crust, is by no means so hard as iron, it will not require much reflection to understand that if the foot is confined by too narrow a shoe it cannot expand, but must contract and grow to the shoe; and as I mentioned before, a contracted foot is a very great defect, and renders a horse unsafe to ride.

Concluding Remarks.

In bringing this subject before the public, the Author has been influenced by a desire to instruct others in those means of training horses he has found, from much experience and observation, to have succeeded best with himself; and also to rescue a noble and sagacious animal from some of the mismanagement and suffering he has hitherto endured; and he does this with the greater confidence, since he has such an opinion of his fellow men as to believe they are not cruel from the love of cruelty, but knowing that horses must be made to obey by some means or other, resort to it as the only medium they can think of by which to attain their object. He trusts, however, the perusal of the preceding pages will furnish them with such instructions as they may be deficient in; and if so, he will have obtained the principal end he has in view. How his work has been performed, he must leave to an indulgent public to determine; but upon the soundness and efficacy of his precepts, he is willing to stake his reputation.

THE END.

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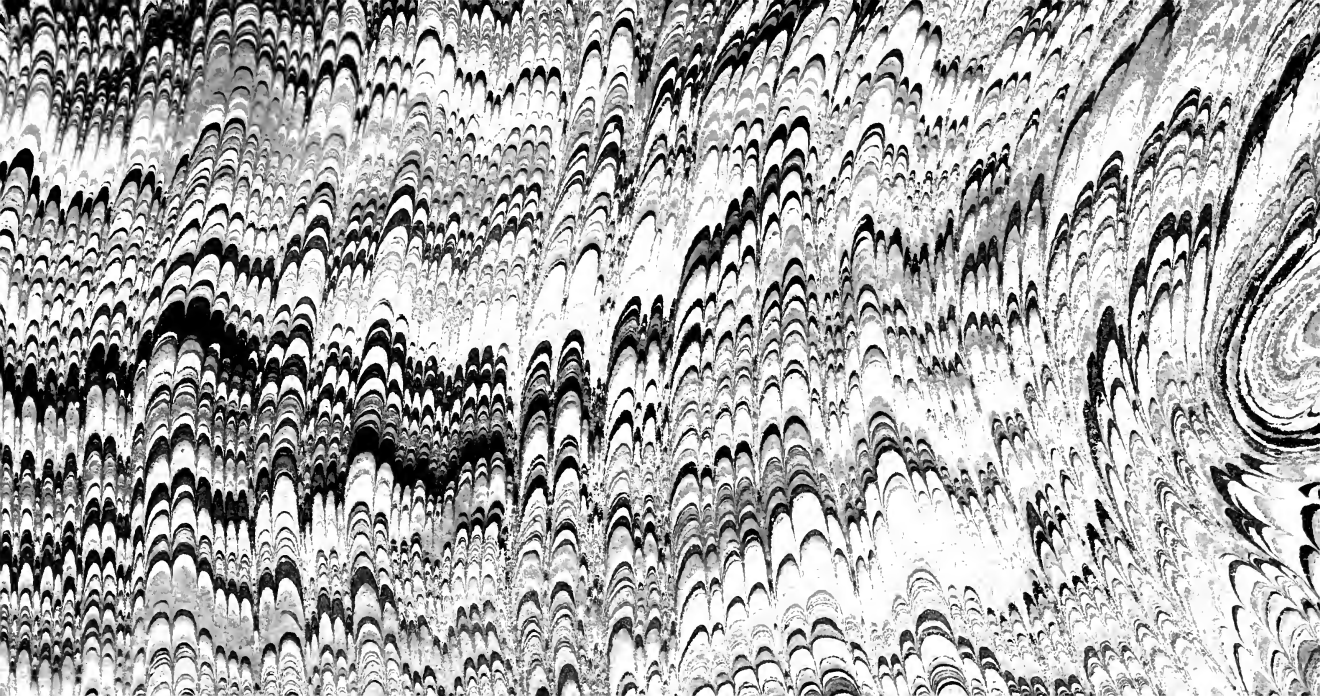

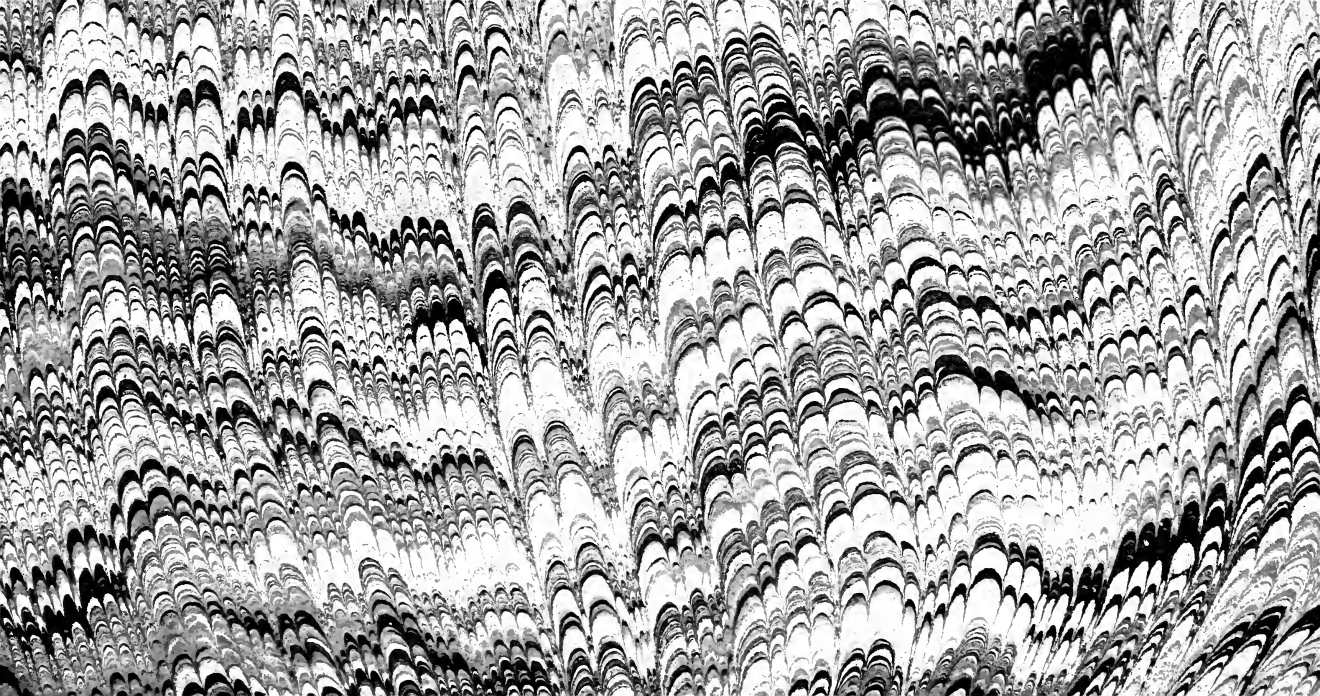

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